

April 27, 2006

Kristine Koch
EPA, Region 10
1200 Sixth Ave, M/S ECL-115
Seattle, WA 98101
OR 97204

Re: Source Control Decision- Ro-Mar Site
9333 N Time Oil Road
Portland, OR
ECSI No. 2437

Dear Kristine, Eric & Chip:

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) reviewed your 4/7/06 letter commenting on DEQ's 2/28/06 draft Source Control Decision (SCD) for the Ro-Mar site. In your letter, you state that the EPA cannot agree with DEQ's determination that this facility does not appear to be a current source of Willamette River water or sediment contamination. I've attached to today's letter Tom Gainer's (DEQ's Project Manager for Ro-Mar) response to your 4/7/06 comments. I believe Tom's response adequately addresses and resolves your comments, but I want to give you the opportunity to review Tom's response before we make our final SCD. As you're aware, there is a pending property transaction for the Ro-Mar site, so time is of the essence. I'd like to discuss and resolve your review of Tom's response and any outstanding concerns you may have with our intention to finalize the SCD in the 5/8/06 meeting we have scheduled in Portland.

I also want to address a more global issue regarding upland Source Control Evaluations (SCEs) and SCDs. The overarching goal of Portland Harbor source control is identify, evaluate and control upland sources of contamination threatening the river. DEQ's focus is to identify and control sites that pose significant threat. Exceedance of the conservative screening levels included in the Joint Source Control Strategy (JSCS) should not necessarily require Source Control Actions. Furthermore, while SCEs need to be of sufficient effort to fully characterize the site and identify and evaluate sources threatening the river, they do not necessarily need to be time- and cost-intensive, exhaustive efforts that attempt to identify contamination that poses a minor threat to the river.

DEQ's general objective in preparing SCD documents is to evaluate whether an upland site is a current or reasonably likely future source of contamination to the Portland Harbor Site. DEQ Project Managers use their professional judgment to guide site investigations and source control measures that address significant contaminant sources and migration pathways under reasonably likely current and future use of the property. Furthermore, DEQ Project Managers use judgment on how to accurately summarize site activities into a SCD document that succinctly highlights contaminant issues relevant to the Portland Harbor Site. DEQ appreciates the time you have

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spent preparing comments on this SCD for the Ro-Mar Site, but I am concerned that the volume and nature of your comments do not reflect a shared commitment to concentrate our efforts on significant source control issues. Let us together focus our limited resources on significant contaminant sources that are reasonably likely to contribute to Portland Harbor. We can further address these more global issues in our 5/8/06 meeting in Portland.

If you have any questions regarding today's letter or any other issues, please contact me at (503) 229-6825 or anderson.jim@deq.state.or.us

Sincerely,

James M. Anderson, Manager
Portland Harbor Section

Attachments: DEQ's "Response to Comments from U.S. EPA

cc: Tom Gainer, DEQ/NWR
Matt McClincy, DEQ/NWR
Chip Humphrey, EPA/Portland
Eric Blischke, EPA/Portland